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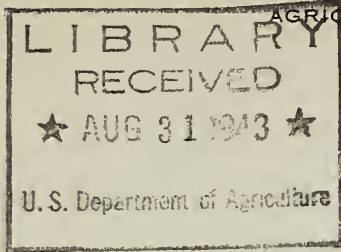
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.



October 9, 1939.

SCALE MEMORANDUM NO. 2

For the information of scale agencies and others concerned in the testing of scales at stockyards posted under the Packers and Stockyards Act.

In testing livestock scales the errors shall be determined by means of small weights on the platform, as is briefly explained below, and not by the use of fractional poises, except where the fractional poise is being tested. The plan to be used, briefly, is as follows:

The scale is to be balanced at zero or starting load with a sufficient number of small test weights on the scale platform to exceed any errors likely to be developed by the test, as for instance by placing 25 pounds of assorted small weights on the platform. The balance of the beam is then to be carefully adjusted with the aid of the balance ball until an exact center balance is secured. The test load is to be then applied -- as for instance 1,000 pounds -- and the poise is to be set so that the reading of the beam corresponds to the test load, which in this case would be 1,000 pounds. The beam is then to be brought to a perfect center balance by adding to or taking from the small weights present on the scale platform. From this change in the small weights on the platform, the error in the scale can be accurately determined.

In determining the error, the person operating the beam shall permit those outside of the scale house who may be changing the small weights on the platform to conceal from him the exact amount of small weights present, until a satisfactory balance has been completed and accepted.

The SR of the scale during the test shall be determined by applying or removing weights from the scale platform until the change in balance position which defines the SR is accomplished.

Test record forms have been provided by the Service for the use of those testing livestock scales under its supervision.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. W. Miller".

F. W. Miller, In Charge,
Administration of Packers and Stockyards Act.

